Claim Amendments

These amendments modify the Examiner's Amendment set forth in the Notice of Allowance dated March 2, 2006.

11 (currently amended): A method of monitoring the progression of HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising:

(a) measuring the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the patient, wherein the pDC2 cells are $CD4^+$, $CD3^-$ and $CD11c^-$; and

(b) comparing the number of pDC2 cells in said sample with the number of pDC2 cells in a ~~appropriate~~ control sample, where the control sample is from a subject or subjects free of HIV infection or AIDS,

wherein a number of pDC2 cells in the patient sample below the number of pDC2 cells in the control sample indicates that HIV infection or AIDS is progressing.

15 (previously presented): A method of assessing the effectiveness of a therapeutic or pharmaceutical composition in treating, inhibiting or ameliorating HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising measuring and comparing the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the subject before and after treatment with the therapeutic or pharmaceutical composition, wherein the pDC2 cells are $CD4^+$, $CD3^-$ and $CD11c^-$, and wherein an increase in the number of pDC2 cells in the sample after treatment indicates that the composition is effective.

21 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~blood~~ sample is a peripheral blood sample.

22 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting $CD4^+$ $CD3^-$ $CD11c^-$ cells.

23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.

24 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.

26 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein the ~~blood~~ sample is a peripheral blood sample.

27 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting $CD4^+$ $CD3^-$ $CD11c^-$ cells.

28 (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.

29 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.

30 (currently amended): A method of monitoring the progression of HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising:

(a) measuring the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the patient, wherein the pDC2 cells are $CD4^+$, $CD3^-$ and $CD11c^-$; and

(b) comparing the number of pDC2 cells in said sample with the number of pDC2 cells in a ~~appropriate~~ control sample, where the control sample is from a subject or subjects having HIV infection or AIDS that is progressing,

wherein a number of pDC2 cells in the patient sample above the number of pDC2 cells in the control sample indicates that HIV infection or AIDS is not progressing.

32 (currently amended): The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~blood~~ sample is a peripheral blood sample.

33 (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting $CD4^+$ $CD3^-$ $CD11c^-$ cells.

34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.

35 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.